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THIS IS A JOINT USAID/STATE MESSAGE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAID RW BY
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DEMARCHE ON FRIENDS OF RWANDA

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.
2. SUMMARY. THE WORLD BANK HAS AGREED TO CHAIR A

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MEETING OF DONORS ON RWANDA IN PARIS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27. THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO A FORMAL FRIENDS OF BURUNDI MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 28. THE FOCUS OF THE MEETING WILL BE TO ASSESS THE STATE OF RWANDA'S ECONOMY AND TO REVIEW DONORS ASSISTANCE PLANS, INCLUDING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ARREARAGES. IT WILL NOT BE A FORMAL PLEDGING SESSION. WE REQUEST THAT POSTS MAKE A DEMARCHE TO OTHER DONORS TO RWANDA TO ATTEND THE INFORMAL RWANDA MEETING. TEXT OF TALKING POINTS IS IN PARA 4 . END SUMMARY.

3. WORLD BANK OFFICIALS AGREED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 TO CHAIR AN INFORMAL DONORS MEETING ON RWANDA IN PARIS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 JUST PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 28 FRIENDS OF BURUNDI MEETING. FRANCISCO AGUIRRE-SACASA, DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD BANK'S DIVISION OF SOUTH-CENTRAL AND INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES (AFRICA) WILL ISSUE INVITATIONS BY PHONE TO BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, JAPAN, THE EU, USG, UNDP, AND IMF. THE RWANDA MEETING WILL NOT INCLUDE GOR OFFICIALS. THE MEETING'S AGENDA WILL INCLUDE

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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN RWANDA AND OF SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO HELP THE RWANDANS REBUILD THEIR COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, THE IBRD WOULD WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF CLEARING ARREARAGES. ARREARAGES TO THE WORLD BANK'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA) TOTAL NEARLY USD 4 MILLION. IDA CANNOT PROVIDE ANY NEW MONIES TO RWANDA UNTIL THESE ARREARAGES ARE CLEARED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUEST THAT POSTS MAKE A DEMARCHE TO APPROPRIATE SENIOR-LEVEL OFFICIALS TO URGE THEIR GOVERNMENT TO SEND AN OFFICIAL TO THE INFORMAL DONORS MEETING ON RWANDA. POSTS SHOULD DRAW ON TALKING POINTS BELOW:

TALKING POINTS

--THE WORLD BANK HAS AGREED TO CHAIR AN INFORMAL DONORS MEETING ON RWANDA ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 IN PARIS, THE DAY BEFORE THE FORMAL FRIENDS OF BURUNDI MEETING.

--WE URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO SEND AN OFFICIAL TO THE RWANDA MEETING AND TO THE FRIENDS OF BURUNDI MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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-- AT THE RWANDA MEETING, DONORS WILL ASSESS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO RESTART RWANDA'S ECONOMY. IN ADDITION, WORLD BANK OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF CLEARING ARREARAGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA) SO THAT IDA WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA IN THE FUTURE. TOTAL

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ARREARS TO IDA ARE NEARLY USD 4 MILLION.

-- FOR RWANDA, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RESTORE ORDER AND PROVIDE SECURITY OF PERSON AND PROPERTY; REBUILD BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE; AND REINSTATE BASIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES. BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DONORS CAN ASSIST RWANDANS IN ACCOMPLISHING THESE GOALS.

--THE INFORMAL RWANDA DONORS MEETING ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SHOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT COORDINATION FOR EFFORTS TO ASSIST RWANDANS IN REBUILDING THEIR COUNTRY.

--IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT DONORS COLLABORATE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST THE BANK IN CLEARING ARREARS SO THAT FAST-DISBURSING ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED TO HELP THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ADDRESS THE IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES.

--IT IS IMPORTANT TO WORK TOWARD CREATING CONDITIONS FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE VOLUNTARY RETURN OF RWANDAN REFUGEES CONSISTENT WITH SECURITY CONCERNS AND THEIR PHYSICAL WELL-BEING. THE RWANDA MEETING IS A GOOD START.

5. KIGALI, MINIMIZE CONSIDERED; BUJUMBURA, MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
CHRISTOPHER

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